Northwest Territories Bureau of Statistics

1991 Aboriginal Peoples Data
Northwest Territories

- Disabled Persons -
- Housing Characteristics -

This report presents statistical information for the Northwest Territories obtained from the Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS) which was completed by Statistics Canada following the 1991 Census of Canada. The report provides information at the territorial level relating to disabled aboriginal persons and to housing characteristics for private dwellings occupied by aboriginal persons. Statistical tables in the report are based on the self-identification of respondents and cover the aboriginal population as a whole as well as being provided separately for Inuit, North American Indian and Métis.

This report is the fourth and final report in a series prepared by the NWT Bureau of Statistics. The first report outlined the population reporting aboriginal origins and aboriginal identity for Canada, the provinces and territories while the second highlighted languages, health status and social issues. The third report covered topics which included schooling and school experience; work and related activities; income and income sources; expenditures; and population mobility. Community data for these topics is also available on *T-stat*, the territorial government's on-line data retrieval system, or by contacting the Bureau of Statistics.

Statistics in this report were obtained from the Statistics Canada publication *Aboriginal Data: 1 - Disability 2 - Housing* (Catalogue 89-535). Users of this information are advised to refer to *Users Guide to 1991 Aboriginal Data* which is available free of charge from Statistics Canada.

Statistical Highlights – Northwest Territories

Among NWT residents 15 years of age and over who identify with an aboriginal group and who answered the APS questions on disability, 27 percent had some level of disability (4,690 persons). Of these, a total of 1,915 respondents reported a hearing disability; 1,580 a mobility disability; 1,190 an agility disability; and 1,045 a sight disability. Most aboriginal persons with disabilities reported a mild disability (77 percent) while 7 percent had a severe disability. In managing everyday activities, some 26 percent of those with disabilities needed help with heavy household chores. Almost 10 percent had difficulty taking short trips and, of these, 25 percent were unable to leave their residence.

The Aboriginal Peoples Survey also included questions about the housing characteristics for occupied private dwellings with at least one resident reporting an aboriginal identity. For the Northwest Territories, some 8,760 dwellings had at least one aboriginal occupant. Some 72 percent of these dwellings were tenant occupied while the remainder were primarily owner occupied (with some band housing). Most aboriginal dwellings (71 percent) were constructed since 1971 — 39 percent of these since 1981.

The need for regular maintenance only was reported for just over one-half of aboriginal dwellings (53 percent), while another 23 percent needed major repairs. Over 60 percent of dwellings completely met the needs of their residents. Lack of adequate storage space was the most frequently identified shortcoming, and residents in some 1,290 aboriginal dwellings reported being on a waiting list for housing. Most aboriginal dwellings had a smoke detector which was reported to be in working order in almost all cases. Fire extinguishers in working order were also reported for most homes while for dwellings responding to questions on home insurance, just over half were covered by insurance.

Water for drinking as well as for general use was most often obtained from a municipal water system, with surface water being the next most common source. Some 79 percent of homes indicated that the water available is suitable for consumption, while less than 10 percent reported being without drinking water at some point during the twelve months prior to the survey. Ninety-five percent of homes reported having electricity — although 6 percent of these homes had electrical problems. A heating system was present in most homes (97 percent) with an oil furnace being the most common heating equipment (68 percent) followed by wood stoves (14 percent). Among dwellings reporting on bathroom facilities, less than 5 percent had no bathroom. For homes with a bathroom, 95 percent had hot and cold running water and 93 percent had flush toilets.

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Notes to Tables

- All figures are independently random rounded prior to publication. As a result, all numbers end in the digit 0 or 5 and may not sum to the total.
- Some persons reported that they identified with more than one aboriginal group. As a result, the sum of responses for individual aboriginal groups may be greater than the total for those reporting aboriginal identity.
- Due to multiple responses and non-response to questions, categories may not sum to total.
- Aboriginal dwellings include all dwellings with at least one person identifying aboriginal identity.

Symbols

- * Figure to be used with caution. The coefficient of variation of the estimate is between 16.6% and 33.3%.
- ‡ Zero, or figure suppressed since the coefficient of variation of the estimate is higher than 33.3%.

Table 1 Disabled Persons 15 Years & Over, by Aboriginal Group
Northwest Territories, 1991

	Reporting Aboriginal Identity	Inuit	North American Indian	Métis
Persons 15 Years & Over	20,745	12,090	6,220	2,510
Persons responding to disability questionnaire	17,590	10,210	5,300	2,150
disabled persons	4,690	2,990	1,215	495
Disability Rates (%)				
15 years & over	26.7	29.3	23.0	23.0
15 - 24 years	19.4	22.3	11.7	20.7
25 - 34 years	18.9	22.3	15.2	11.3•
35 - 54 years	30.5	34.0	24.5	29.1
55 years & over	57.4	61.3	55.7	44.2•
Severity of Disability				
mild 3,625	2,325	905	405	
moderate	745	495	210	45•
severe	320	170	105•	45•
Nature of Disability				
hearing	1,915	1,325	460	130•
mobility	1,580	935	470	170
agility	1,190	645	400	140
seeing	1,045	690	285	75•
speaking	330	230	85•	‡
other 1,525	1,020	380	120•	
Specialized Technical Aids or Services				
Persons using specialized aids, equipment or systems	1,115	745	255	115•
for hearing	370	300	50•	‡
for seeing	680	480	135•	70•
for speaking or communicating	‡	‡	‡	‡
for mobility or agility	265	125•	85•	55•
for other reasons	95•	45•	‡	‡
Persons who require special aids, equipment or services to be able to work	145	75•	50•	‡
human support	‡	‡	‡	‡
technical aids	‡	‡	‡	‡
communication services	‡	‡	‡	‡
job redesign	45•	‡	‡	‡
modified or reduced hours	‡	‡	‡	‡
retraining	‡	‡	‡	‡
Managing Everyday Activities				
Persons who need help doing heavy household chores	1,200	665	405	135•
persons who get help	1,100	615	370	125•
from family member	995	570	330	95•
from friend or neighbor	350	210	130•	‡
from someone else	130•	50•	60•	‡
Persons who need help grocery shopping	700	455	185	60•
persons who get help	655	430	175	50•
from family member	610	420	155	‡
from friend or neighbor	230	150	80•	‡
from someone else	105•	45•	45•	‡

(continued)

Table 1 Disabled Persons 15 Years & Over, by Aboriginal Group Northwest Territories, 1991 (concluded)

	Reporting Aboriginal Identity	Inuit	North American Indian	Métis
Managing Everyday Activities(continued)				
Persons who need help doing everyday housework	630	380	200	55*
persons who get help	580	350	180	50*
from family member	545	335	155	50*
from friend or neighbor	140	80*	60*	‡
from someone else	85*	40*	45*	‡
Persons who need help with personal finances	535	325	130*	80*
persons who get help	480	295	115*	75*
from family member	420	265	105*	55*
from friend or neighbor	70*	50*	‡	‡
from someone else	90*	40*	‡	‡
Persons who need help during meal preparation	345	215	95*	35*
persons who get help	310	195	85*	‡
from family member	290	185	75*	‡
from friend or neighbor	90*	40*	‡	‡
from someone else	60*	‡	‡	‡
Persons who need help moving about within residence	240	155	60*	‡
persons who get help	235	145	55*	‡
from family member	210	130*	55*	‡
from friend or neighbor	95*	60*	‡	‡
from someone else	50*	‡	‡	‡
Persons who need help with personal care	195	100*	65*	‡
persons who get help	180	100*	50*	‡
from family member	150	85*	55*	‡
from friend or neighbor	35*	‡	‡	‡
from someone else	50*	‡	‡	‡
Persons who require specialized features to enter, leave or move about residence	110*	55*	40*	‡
access ramps or ground level entrance	85*	45*	‡	‡
widened doorways	‡	‡	‡	‡
elevator or lift device	‡	‡	‡	‡
Travel				
Persons experiencing difficulty taking short trips (< 80 km)	460	300	140	‡
unable to leave residence	115*	75*	‡	‡
Persons requiring an attendant or companion on short trips	530	315	165	50*
Persons unable to take long trips (> 80 km	600	400	155	45*

Table 2 Aboriginal Occupied Private Dwellings Characteristics, Conditions and Infrastructure, by Aboriginal Group Northwest Territories, 1991

	Total Aboriginal Dwellings	Inuit Dwellings	North American Indian Dwellings	Métis Dwellings
Selected Dwelling Characteristics				
Occupied private dwellings	8,760	4,830	2,800	1,400
tenant	6,270	4,210	1,475	755
owner	2,435	620	1,265	680
band housing	55	‡	55	‡
Average gross rent of tenant dwellings ($/month)	355	278	450	600
Average owner's major payments of owned dwellings ($/month)	549	663	367	754
Average number of ...				
persons per dwelling	4.2	4.6	4.0	3.6
rooms per dwelling	5.1	5.0	4.9	5.7
persons per room	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.6
bedrooms per dwelling	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.6
Period of Construction				
1945 or before	55	15*	25*	10*
1946-1960	450	155	210	95
1961-1970	2,045	1,110	655	345
1971-1980	2,765	1,660	710	500
1981-1991	3,445	1,885	1,195	485
Condition of Dwelling				
Dwelling is in need of ...				
regular maintenance only	4,600	2,680	1,355	735
minor repairs	2,150	1,175	635	410
major repairs	2,005	975	810	295
Needs of residents living in dwelling				
completely met	5,625	2,920	1,805	1,075
not adequately met	2,745	1,665	885	315
needs more storage space	1,665	980	585	185
needs more living space	1,620	985	540	165
needs more bedrooms	1,550	960	505	165
needs larger kitchen	1,550	950	515	155
needs more work space	1,360	795	500	130
needs more eating space	1,235	755	420	120
needs better ways to keep house warm	1,550	915	540	165
needs new roof	735	360	330	80
needs other facilities	895	450	370	125
needs unspecified	60	25*	15*	10*
Residents on Waiting List for Housing	1,290	755	425	150
Safety Devices				
Dwellings with a smoke detector	7,885	4,560	2,280	1,310
in working order	7,465	4,330	2,155	1,235
not in working order	180	70	75	35
working order unspecified	240	165	45	40
Dwellings with a fire extinguisher	7,485	4,530	2,070	1,135
in working order	7,035	4,275	1,940	1,060
not in working order	35	‡	20*	10*
working order unspecified	415	250	120	65

(continued)

Table 2 Aboriginal Occupied Private Dwellings
Characteristics, Conditions and Infrastructure, by Aboriginal Group
Northwest Territories, 1991 (continued)

	Total Aboriginal Dwellings	Inuit Dwellings	North American Indian Dwellings	Métis Dwellings
Insurance				
Dwellings covered by insurance	3,480	1,800	935	850
Dwellings not covered by insurance	3,200	1,535	1,400	405
due to high cost of insurance	585	145	355	115
no company that will insure home	455	215	200	65
other reasons	1,155	580	460	165
reasons unspecified	1,070	630	410	70
Insurance coverage unspecified	2,085	1,500	465	185
Drinking Water				
Source(s) of drinking water for dwelling				
municipal water system	5,990	3,000	1,965	1,235
surface water	2,255	1,760	475	95
community system	725	350	310	85
rain, snow, dugout	200	160	35	15*
household well	35	20*	15*	10*
other source	35	10*	15*	‡
source unspecified	200	120	70	25*
Delivery of drinking water				
truck 4,645	3,045	1,390	385	
piped to home	3,530	1,470	1,165	1,005
hauled by household member	905	635	230	70
stand pipe	30*	15*	‡	‡
bought at a store	15*	‡	‡	‡
other means	50	15*	30*	‡
means unspecified	205	120	75	20*
Available water is considered suitable to drink	6,960	3,540	2,410	1,255
Residents treat water to make it safe to drink	1,160	825	265	110
Without drinking water at some point during the previous 12 months	855	490	255	150
Non-Drinking Water				
Source(s) of non-drinking water for dwelling				
municipal water system	6,110	3,055	2,025	1,255
surface water	1,745	1,340	390	70
community system	790	410	315	100
rain, snow, dugout	75	30*	45	‡
household well	20*	‡	10*	‡
source unspecified	225	120	80	30*
Delivery of non-drinking water				
truck 4,905	3,245	1,440	410	
piped to home	3,545	1,465	1,185	1,005
hauled by household member	265	110	140	35*
stand pipe	10*	‡	‡	‡
other means	40	‡	40	‡
means unspecified	205	115	70	20*

(continued)

Table 2 Aboriginal Occupied Private Dwellings
Characteristics, Conditions and Infrastructure, by Aboriginal Group
Northwest Territories, 1991 (concluded)

	Total Aboriginal Dwellings	Inuit Dwellings	North American Indian Dwellings	Métis Dwellings
Electrical System				
Dwellings with electricity	8,350	4,590	2,645	1,410
problems with electrical system	460	245	160	80
old wiring	115	65	50	20*
circuit breakers tripping or fuses blowing	80	35	45	‡
faulty outlets	80	30*	45	15*
need for more power outlets	65	40	30*	‡
other problems	200	110	55	40
problem unspecified	40	15*	15*	15*
Heating System				
Dwellings with heating systems	8,505	4,665	2,725	1,410
main sources of heat ...				
oil furnace	5,765	3,590	1,505	875
gas furnace	490	175	205	125
another type of furnace	285	150	65	75
electric heat	415	240	140	45
wood stove	1,260	115	935	300
cooking stove	230	120	80	40
fireplace	30*	‡	10*	15*
another source	775	465	165	170
heating system unspecified	365	240	85	45
Bathroom Facilities				
Dwellings with bathroom facilities	8,160	4,670	2,390	1,390
with a flush toilet	7,610	4,415	2,130	1,315
with an out-house	455	35	390	50
with other toilet facilities	560	225	295	65
toilet facilities unspecified	255	155	90	30*
with walls and a door (for privacy)	8,005	4,590	2,325	1,370
in working order	7,980	4,575	2,315	1,370
not in working order	25*	10*	10*	‡
without walls and a door	70	35	30*	10*
with a hot running water bathtub/shower	7,725	4,485	2,155	1,345
in working order	7,640	4,435	2,130	1,335
not in working order	85	50	20*	10*
without a hot running water bathtub/shower	400	160	225	40
with a cold running water bathtub/shower	7,690	4,445	2,160	1,340
in working order	7,640	4,425	2,140	1,330
not in working order	55	25*	15*	‡
without a cold running water bathtub/shower	425	195	210	45
with a hot running water sink	7,740	4,505	2,160	1,345
in working order	7,660	4,450	2,130	1,340
not in working order	80	55	25*	‡
without a hot running water sink	380	145	220	40
with a cold running water sink	7,720	4,470	2,170	1,340
in working order	7,665	4,440	2,150	1,335
not in working order	50	25*	20*	‡
without a cold running water sink	405	180	205	40
Dwellings without bathroom facilities	395	30*	345	25*
Bathroom facilities unspecified	210	125	65	25*